

June 26, 1985

TO: File

FROM: D. Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor/Reclamation Hydrologist *DWH*

RE: Walker Gold Mining Company, DOE/013/002, Duchesne County, Utah

On June 21, 1985, Wayne Hedberg and Tom Suchoski stopped in Duchesne, Utah, to speak with the County Sheriff Mr. Clair Poulson to discuss the status of the Walker Gold Mining Company's Declaration of Exemption (DOE) for the Elk Claims in Duchesne County. Mr. Barney G. Powell had filed for a DOE with the Division on June 12, 1985. Through discussions with Mr. Poulson, it was decided best not to visit the site at this time due to a series of threats which had been given to some of the local Sheriff's officers and to the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) enforcement personnel from the Ashley National Forest. Mr. Poulson stated that Mr. Powell had been in to visit with him on several occasions and filed papers requesting that the Sheriff arrest certain individuals who supposedly had stolen property from him. The Sheriff stated that Mr. Powell had apparently threatened to shoot certain deputies of the Sheriff's office if they were to come onsite again. Mr. Poulson also stated that Mr. Powell had spent time in prison for killing a man in the past and had shot up a local resident's truck on another occasion.

The Division also stopped in at the local Forest Service office to speak with Mr. Jack Morris, Mineral Specialist for the Ashley National Forest, Duchesne Ranger Station. Mr. Morris was not available at the time to discuss the current status of Mr. Powell's operations on the forest. Consequently, we spoke with Mr. Allen Henningson. Mr. Henningson was aware of Mr. Powell's activities and said that the claims were still active and basically reiterated some of the threats which they had received similar to those of the Sheriff's office. Mr. Suchoski presented Mr. Henningson with a copy of Mr. Powell's DOE and also a copy of a certified letter dated June 18, 1985 to Mr. Powell concerning his filing of a DOE with the Division's office. It was decided by the field representatives to suspend visiting the site until after we had received a response from Mr. Powell to the certified letter, until the Division was notified of expanded operations beyond the DOE exemption, or until hazardous environmental concerns

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were reported to be occurring onsite. If either of these conditions occur, the Division will proceed with the appropriate measures to bring Mr. Powell before the Board to discuss the remedial measures necessary to bring the operation into compliance with all appropriate state and federal laws.

btb

cc: Jack Morris  
Clair Poulson  
Lowell Braxton  
Sue Linner  
Tom Suchoski  
John Whitehead  
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